



## MEMORANDUM

TC

Agenda Item No. 1(E)1

TO: Transportation Committee

DATE: May 20, 2004

FROM: George M. Burgess  
County Manager

SUBJECT: May 2004 Monthly  
Progress Report

Attached please find the May 2004 Monthly Progress Report for Aviation, Seaport, Consumer Services, Miami-Dade Transit and Public Works' PTP Projects.

  
Surface Transportation Manager

## **May 2004 Progress Report**

### **Consumer Services**

#### **Goal #1: Complete implementation of the Limousine Ordinance**

##### **Status:**

This goal is substantially completed. Staff is currently working on the establishment of an industry advisory committee, and amendments to established minimum limousine rates that, by ordinance, are required to be 3.3 times higher than the rate for taxicab meter wait time.

#### **Goal #2: Further the transition to owner-operator Taxi Cab System**

##### **Status:**

CSD continues to receive and process applications for transfers of taxicab licenses to owner-operators. 181 taxi licenses have been transferred to owner-operators since adoption of the Taxi Ordinance in 1998.

On April 22, 2004, the Transportation Committee approved an ordinance amendment to hold an annual lottery of 35 taxicab medallions in 2004, 2005, and 2006, have a study conducted by March 2006 to review matters related to taxicab use and need, amend the cost of obtaining a lottery medallion, and creating a South Miami-Dade Service Area.

There are 438 of 1,966 taxi licenses (22.3%) held by owner-operators. In 1998, approximately 114 of 1,824 taxi licenses (6%) were held by owner-operators.

The 1998 ordinance created a required apprentice and training program for new taxi chauffeurs. This program, offered twice per month, is intended to provide new drivers with the necessary skills to be successful. 1,815 taxi chauffeurs have completed the program to date.

CSD is working with various parties to ensure the availability of well located taxi stands. CSD met with Parrot Jungle and the City of Miami to assist them in creating a stand. CSD is also working with the City Of Miami Beach to create stands at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, and to add stands at 17 Street and Collins Avenue. Finally, staff met with representatives of the new Conrad Hotel on Biscayne Boulevard to establish a taxi stand on their premises.

CSD recently conducted enforcement training for 23 City of Miami Police Officers and three Public Service Aides, and provided train-the-trainer materials to the City of Miami Beach Police Department for training of 19 new officers. Police officers from these jurisdictions have the ability to enforce the County's for-hire Codes through an interlocal agreement. CSD also met with representatives from the Miami Beach Parking Department to discuss extending the interlocal agreement to their night shift.

### **Goal #3: Continue to improve consumer protection services**

#### **Status:**

Continued implementing the reinstated towing regulatory program. 494 applications have been received from towing businesses operating 944 tow trucks. CSD is now re-contacting the 26 towers whose applications are still incomplete and is issuing citations to unlicensed towers.

Began implementing a mediation program utilizing Consumer Hotline staff that are trained and certified as mediators by the State Supreme Court. Consumers and businesses that have disputes are given the opportunity to resolve their issues face-to-face or in a conference call with a mediator. The first three mediations were successfully resolved.

Continued to monitor Comcast Communications' cable system upgrade in the Carol City area. The completion date for the project is May 30, 2004. It has been determined that the upgrade is more than 90% complete. A technical review of the upgrade is scheduled for mid-May. In addition to the required upgrade, Comcast will soon be offering High Speed Internet services to that area.

CSD held a Small Claims Court Clinic on April 14th at the North Dade Regional Library.

CSD conducted a half-day training session for all the Miami-Dade Winn Dixie Meat Managers regarding packaging, identification, advertising and other related issues. The training was conducted as a result of the high number of County Code violations found at Winn Dixie stores, resulting in a recent Assurance of Voluntary Compliance.

Senate Bill 2448, relating to public health, was amended during the final days of the 2004 session to include that "the regulation, identification, and packaging of meat, poultry, and fish is preempted to the State and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services". Therefore, the County's clear packaging, meat identification and shelf life dating laws will essentially be nullified when this bill becomes law on July 1, 2004. CSD is working with the County Attorneys' Office to determine what effect, if any, this amendment will have on other aspects of the County Code related to weights and measures, kosher products and misleading advertising.

Staff recently met with the consumer agencies in Palm Beach and Broward Counties and the Director of the State's Consumer Services Division to discuss common interests and concerns. Discussions included suggested changes to the Moving Consumer Bill of Rights and Disclosure Statement as well as Bills of Lading that would be beneficial to consumers. CSD is also working on revisions to the Moving Ordinance regarding written estimates and charges in order to be consistent with State Law.

**Goal #4: Institute a streamlined process to license passenger motor carriers, non-emergency vehicles and private school buses**

**Status:**

CSD has been embarking on an industry-by-industry review of regulations and reform measures. CSD is presently drafting revisions to Passenger Motor Carrier code sections. This section of the Code regulates services such as tour vans, contract carriers, and jitneys. An initial draft ordinance was circulated to industry and a workshop was held on May 12, 2003. CSD intends to continue the work later in this calendar year.

**Other Activities:**

A favorable ruling was obtained from the First District Court of Appeal in a class action case filed against the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association (FWUA) and the Florida Department of Insurance (FDOI). The Court invalidated a windstorm insurance rate hike that was approved by an arbitration panel in 2000. The rate issue will be sent back to the Department of Financial Services, Office of Insurance Regulation, to determine whether refunds or credits are due to FWUA policyholders. The Consumer Advocate, an attorney with the CSD, intervened in this lawsuit.

Cooperative Extension activities included: a training session for 50 USDA/DPI inspectors to ID avocado cultivars; a seminar for marina managers on the "Clean Marina/Boatyard Program"; Extension Agents organized and taught the South Dade Nursery Tour Field Day; Extension Agents met with USDA APHIS inspectors regarding cooperative monitoring for new invasive pests and diseases that could threaten agriculture industry and landscape plantings; and, for National Nutrition Month, 17 programs were conducted including food demonstrations for Head Start Centers, Miami-Dade County Public Schools parent outreach programs, schools, and COPE Centers for pregnant and teen parents.

**Public Works Department**

**Goal 1: Implement the Public Works Department's Major PTP projects on-time and on-budget**

**Status:**

The NW 62 Avenue project in Hialeah began construction on May 3, 2004. This \$5.5 million dollar project is the first Major PTP project to break ground for Public Works. The construction will be administered by the City of Hialeah.

Six design contracts are in the process of selecting a consultant and negotiating the terms of the contract. The contracts will address several site specific projects in the department's 2-year plan.

The Grand Avenue Project is expected to break ground in August 2004. The City of Miami is working on the construction documents. The project cost is \$3.7 million dollars, and combines funding from PTP, other County funding sources (RIF, Secondary Gas Tax) and City of Miami funding.

The NW 74 Street project is currently being studied by FDOT. After the PD&E study, FDOT and Miami-Dade County will explore funding options to accelerate the project. Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami will begin drafting JPAs this month to accelerate several other projects in the 2-year plan. Those projects are NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave from NE 36 Street to NE 43 Street and from NE 43 Street to NE 62 Street and South Miami Avenue from SW 25 Road to SW 15 Road.

A reversible flow study is being initiated by the MPO. The consultant selection will begin in the next 1-2 months.

A grade separation study is being initiated by the MPO. The consultant selection will begin in the next 1-2 months.

The Miami River Crossing Study scope is being revised and reviewed by the County, FDOT, and the City of Miami. Once a scope is finalized the study will be advertised by the County.

**Goal 2: Implement the Public Works Department's Neighborhood PTP projects on-time and on-budget**

**Status:**

Public Works has contacted each of the County Commissioner's Offices to meet to discuss the Neighborhood Improvement Projects with their Districts. Four Commissioners have met to discuss and prioritize projects so far.

Contracts to address these Neighborhood Improvements (Non-Site Specific) are being moved forward as fast as possible. Four Contracts (School Flashing Signals, Sidewalks, ADA Sidewalks, Resurfacing) have been approved by the BCC and CITT. Eleven other contracts are expected to go before the BCC and CITT in June for approval of award recommendation.

PWD is preparing contract documents for construction of the NW 82 Ave / NW 8 St from NW 7 St to NW 10 St / NW 87 Av to NW 79 Av project. Final design was recently completed through DERM.

Two Resurfacing change orders are ongoing in Districts 1 and 7. To date, the contractor has completed approximately 80% of the work order at each location.

The BCC passed a PWD amendment to the PTP. The amendment added roadway signs, roadway striping, roadway lighting, and traffic calming to the items that can be accomplished with PTP Neighborhood Improvement funds.

**Goal 3: Picking the Low-Hanging PTP Fruit**

**Status:**

A major, visible project is already under construction (NW 62 Ave).

Another prominent project will begin construction in August (Grand Ave.)

Two Resurfacing contracts ongoing in Districts 1 & 7.

Four Open Construction Contracts will begin work in June.

Street name signs are being replaced at a greater rate today. Crews are working overtime to replace faded signs with the new sign design.

PWD is hiring staff and acquiring equipment to accelerate the street name sign effort with PTP funds.

**Goal 4: Begin Work on all PWD PTP Projects**

**Status:**

Each project in the 2-year plan is underway in some fashion (design, consultant negotiations, construction, contract preparation)

PWD has begun negotiations with the Master Consultants for assistance in PTP Projects. These consultants will begin scope development for all PTP projects in the future years. This will allow PWD to advertise for design services for these projects faster.

**Seaport**

**Goal #1: Maintaining market share and attracting new business.**

**Status:**

On the cargo side, marketing efforts continue to focus on maintaining existing accounts as well as attracting new business. Towards this end, the Port of Miami is pleased to announce the return of the East Coast South America service from Port Everglades. It is anticipated that this service will provide approximately 25,000-30,000 annual moves through the Port. This service began calling Miami on May 7<sup>th</sup> and is comprised of a major European line and a South American line. Additionally, the PEX 1 all water service from the Far East will be calling in Miami starting at the end of June. This service presently calls in Port Everglades and is comprised of one Far East line and two European lines. This service has great growth potential and is anticipated to initially move approximately 12,000 moves per year.

On the cruise side, Miami will serve as homeport to Carnival's newest vessel, the *Carnival Valor*. The ship will enter the market December 2004 with a 7-day Caribbean itinerary. The port continues to work with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote its "CruiseMiami" program. Later this month a new advertising campaign will be launched with the goal of exciting passengers to extend their vacations longer in the Miami area either before or after their cruise. The seaport will be an exhibitor at CruiseTour World which will be held at the Broward Convention Center May 14 & 15, 2004.

**Goal #2: Advancing the Infrastructure Program.**

**Status:**

P&O Ports Florida, Inc. was contracted by Miami-Dade County under a development agreement to construct 33 projects as part of the Port's redevelopment program. By mutual agreement, Miami-Dade County and P&O Ports Florida, Inc have executed a

termination and assignment agreement to effect a smooth transition of the assignment of the development contracts to the Port. The Port has taken the assignment and is currently working directly with the architects/engineers and construction managers in the fulfillment of the remaining portion of the work.

This Fast Track Development Program for 33 projects has completed 100% of all design requirements and executed 31 project GMPs (Guaranteed Maximum Price) totaling \$101 million of which 10 projects have been completed. Overall completion of this program is scheduled for February 2005.

The Seaport Expedite Program for two (2) new cruise terminals (\$60 million) and multiple infrastructure projects (\$40 million), including crane electrification, marine mooring improvements, container yard development and INS lease improvements to cruise terminal 7 have entered to Pre Construction phase with each of the Construction Managers. The cruise terminals are scheduled for completion within 14 months and the balance of the projects are programmed for completion within an 18-month period. Test pile work has been completed for the cruise terminals and production pile installation is underway at Terminal D. Long time lead items for the infrastructure project have been bid at this time.

The Department has been successful in working with state and federal agencies to secure grant funds for security infrastructure projects. These projects are being integrated into the capital development program.

**Goal #3: Agreeing on a feasible plan to improve traffic flow on and off Port.**

**Status:**

On-Port: Within the Infrastructure Program, construction of a new road will ultimately separate cargo trucking from cruise traffic on the Port. In addition to being a new security measure, this separation of vehicles is designed to enhance traffic safety and ease traffic flow within the Port. Road construction is advancing at a fast pace with about 60% of the project work completed to date.

Off-Port: The primary route to and from the Port is from I-395 entering/exiting from N.E. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues. The first step the Port has undertaken in improving off-Port access is to perform road improvements on N.E. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues from I-395 to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. These improvements include resurfacing, drainage, and right-of-way acquisition (completed) for wider turning lanes for truck traffic, in which the required permits have been obtained. The Public Works Department, on the Port's behalf, has commenced construction of these improvements.

The second step the Port has undertaken is to improve off-Port access to seek an alternate route to the interstate system. The Port will be responsible for road improvements along 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets similar in nature to those being performed on N.E. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues. However, at this time this project has been put on hold per FDOT.

Also, the Department continues to work with the appropriate state and federal agencies to move forward with the Port Tunnel project. The FDOT has commenced borings within the proposed tunnel location as part of its re-evaluation study which is to be completed this summer.

**Goal #4: Beginning the development process for Maritime Center (i.e. office space, hotel, restaurants, etc.)**

**Status:**

At this time, the Seaport Department has developed a maritime center mixed-use concept with preliminary site layouts as a working tool for further marketing and feasibility analyses.

**Miami- Dade Transit**

**Goal #1: Implement goals of Peoples' Transportation Plan**

**Status:**

- **North Corridor update:**
  - The North Corridor was appropriated \$5 million in the 2004 Appropriations Bill; MDT is awaiting the Governor's signature on the Bill.
  - The New Starts Re-Submittal is scheduled to be submitted to FTA in mid-May 2004;
    - o The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is scheduled to be completed in late-May 2004;
    - o The consultant selection process for the North Corridor Preliminary Engineering consultant commenced.
    - o Upon receipt of the revised FEIS, MDT will transmit the document to FTA in early-June 2004 with a request for the issuance of a Record-of-Decision (ROD). FTA granting of the ROD is anticipated in mid-November 2004;
    - o Preliminary Engineering is scheduled to commence in November 2004.
- **MIC-Earlington Heights update:**
  - o Completion of the Preliminary Engineering (PE) request for FTA approval is expected in June 2004;
  - o The New Starts Submittal is scheduled to be submitted to FTA in mid-June 2004.
  - o FTA is scheduled to approve the start of P.E. in early August 2004. Preliminary Engineering is scheduled to commence in late-January 2005;
  - o The FEIS study is scheduled to commence in August 2004 and to be complete in May 2005
- **East-West Corridor update:**
  - o Selection of the East-West Planning Consultant is currently in progress. Proposals were received from three firms on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004. Proposals are currently under review.



- o The Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) to the East-West Planning consultant is scheduled to be issued in mid-September 2004. The FEIS is scheduled to commence in February 2006
- o The Systems Consultant Selection is scheduled to commence in February 2005.
- o The consultant selection process for the Final Design Consultants for segments 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the project is scheduled to commence in March-April 2005.

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) opened its new Operations and Maintenance facility on Friday, April 23, 2004, located at 8141 NW 80<sup>th</sup> Street. This facility will enable MDT to address its rapidly growing fleet due to service improvements mandated by the PTP and allow MDT to provide more efficient and reliable service.

This year alone (January to April), MDT has implemented nearly 750,000 annualized revenue miles. Since the approval of the PTP in November 5, 2002, MDT has implemented nearly 6 million annualized revenue miles of bus service to the system.

Under a separate report, MDT will be reporting on the People's Transportation Plan (Status Report). This document provides status of PTP plan elements with a five-year window and will include other related projects, such as those overseen by FDOT, MDX, SFRTA and the MPO, that contribute to the mobility enhancements that are provided by the PTP. The report will be updated as changes occur. Updates on the Plan will be available on-line for review by the citizens of Miami-Dade County.

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Transit Conference scheduled for June 6-9, 2004, Radisson Hotel – Miami FI continues. MDT has received commitments from significant federal and state officials including the Chair of the Transportation Committee for the House. MDT is planning to host 1,200 to 1,400 participants.

## **Goal #2: Recreate Department's image through futuristic designs and facilities integrated into the system**

### **Status:**

Miami-Dade Transit's Rail and Rehabilitation Project for Metrorail and Metromover continues. MDT met with the Washington Group, consultant for the project, to review various renditions of front "noses" for the Metrorail cars. MDT will go with a sleek looking sloped nose for the leading car. MDT will share with the Transportation Committee and the Board the various options that are being explored. Additionally, MDT has determined that it is more cost-effective to purchase new Metromover Phase I cars (first 12 Mover cars ever purchased) rather than to rehab them. This will net approximately \$200,000 per car in savings.

Bus Shelter installation continues. 382 existing bus shelters are scheduled to be removed and replaced with new shelters. To date, 85 shelters have been installed. MDT will routinely issue an update of locations as the installation of shelters progress.

### **Goal #3: Improve the system's reliability**

#### **Status**

MDT initiated the "Be Counted" program to assess issues related to fare evasion on both Metrorail and Metrobus. The federal government distributes funds partially based on the number of transit trips provided. In light of this, MDT instituted this program in an effort to register all trips taken on the system. The plan involves counting passengers who seek access to the handicap. The bus component involves issuance of a comprehensive bulleting to all Bus Operators informing them of the importance of assuring that the fare is paid and that pass holders are accounted for. Each Operator was required to sign this bulletin. Additionally, MDT has engaged both the Miami-Dade Police Department and the Inspector General's office to assist in this effort. Miami-Dade Police Officers will begin to position themselves at major bus transfer points to check for fraudulent fare media. On routes that reportedly have had problem passengers, Miami-Dade Police will randomly ride the bus and show presence to deter future problems.

### **Goal #4: Improve the courtesy and customer service provided**

#### **Status:**

Held two (2) of six (6) planned Town Hall meetings on Transportation being hosted by Commissioner Seijas. These meetings are being held as part of a needs-assessment pilot in District 13 to evaluate the need for transit improvement in the district. This type of effort will be expanded to be applied to commission districts.

MDT implemented its training initiatives program to enhance employment opportunities in the community. MDT developed, in conjunction with the School Board and the South Florida Workforce, a training module for the position of Bus Maintenance Technician (trainee). An additional class will begin May 24, 2004. Participants who successfully complete the course will be eligible to be considered for hire as Bus Maintenance Technician trainees with MDT.